

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /156 W

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R 170103Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9079

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN RQ

SUB: PUERTO RICO IN COMITE OF 24

REF: USUN 2887

1. COMITE OF 24 PLENARY BEGAN DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO MORNING AUG 16 BY ADOPTING ITS WORKING GROUP'S VAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS REFTEL (BEING REPEATED SEPTTEL TO DAR-ES-SALAAM). ONLY SPEAKER WAS CUBAN AMB ALARCON, WHO DEMANDED THAT COMITE IMMEDIATELY ADOPT RES THAT PUERTO RICO IS US COLONY AND WHO DEVOTED MOST OF HIS ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR HARANGUE TO ATTACKING PROPOSED PETROCHEMICAL SUPERPORT COMPLEX FOR ISLAND AS WELL AS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED US-PR AD HOC COMITE. HE ENDED PRESENTATION WITH GRAB BAG TEN POINT RES CALLING FOR EVERYTHING FROM RELEASE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" FROM US AND PUERTO RICAN JAILS TO WITHDRAWAL OF ALL US MILITARY FROM PR FORTHWITH. COMITE CHAIRMAN SALIM SAID THAT COMITE WOULD CONSIDER, INTER ALIA, CUBAN AMB'S "SUGGESTIONS" (SINCE CUBA NOT MEMBER OF COMITE IT CANNOT INTRODUCE RESES).

2. SALIM NOW CONSULTING WITH COMITE MEMBERS ON REQUEST OF TWO PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS FOR HEARING BEFORE COMITE IN COURSE OF CURRENT DEBATE. ACCORDING TO COMITE VICE CHAIRMAN (IRANIAN DEPUTY PERMREP EHSASSI), SALIM
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BELIEVES COMITE MUST DECIDE IN NEXT FEW DAYS WHETHER IT WILL

GRANT THEM HEARING AND IS FLOATING SO-CALLED COMPROMISE WHEREBY INDEPENDENCE LEADERS COULD SPEAK DURING THIS SESSION WITHOUT PREJUDICING COMITE'S FINAL DECISION ON PR. EHSASSI, WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH COMITE MEMBERS, BELIEVES SO-CALLED COMPROMISE HAS GOOD CHANCE OF APPROVAL SINCE IF IT PUT TO VOTE IT WILL PASS BY NARROW MAJORITY. AT MISOFF'S URGING, EHSASSI HAS AGREED TO SLOW DOWN PACE OF CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO POSTPONE DECISION UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. MISOFFS MEET MORNING AUG 17 BEFORE NEXT COMITE 24 SESSION WITH AUSTRALIANS, IRANIANS AND POSSIBLY SWEDES, TO CONSULT ON TACTICS. WE BELIEVE PUSHING ISSUE TO VOTE MAY BE BEST COURSE OF ACTION BECAUSE MEMBERS OF COMITE, WHO REALIZE THAT ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO US, MAY HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THEIR POSITION WHEN FORCED TO STATE IT FOR THE RECORD. WE WILL NOW MAKE HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS HERE.
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